



# *Paw* **PRINTS**

MAY 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 05



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



*This* is the symbol of

**PONTIAC**



### On the Front Cover:

Rob and Karen Wilson Wedding Day 1984

Photo Credit | Chris Anderson

### Contributors:

Brad Blackburn

Phil Brunney

Rob Wilson

### GTO Association of Central Ohio

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Landing on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine was apparently never in the cards for me. Not that I ever aspired to it as I never once gave thought that my image could even remotely represent what was 'in' or even 'now'. Because, let's face it, I was never really 'it' and neither were most of the kids that I hung out with back in those single-digit years of my youth. But playing tag back in the 60's, that was a whole other animal, because unfortunately those lily whites of mine never carried me nearly as fast as all my cousins could run and I was always *IT!* But still, it probably wasn't quite the 'it' that Rolling Stone would have had in mind even if I had been vying for the cover. Although back in the early 70's I do vaguely recall donning a certain pair of white go-go boots and heading out the front door with my sister (in the broad daylight no less) where we both preceded to belt out the lyrics to Jeremiah was a Bullfrog while performing our little dance routine on a couple of 2X12 boards, that in our minds, served as our front porch stage. Now that photo-op would have been cover worthy had we not been minors!

Even though the Rolling Stone cover never came to pass, now that I have connections with the GTOACO, I thought perhaps one of these days that Mr. Wilson and I would be able to secure the cover of an upcoming edition of the Paw Prints. So obviously, I didn't hesitate to contact the editor. I have to say I was utterly astounded to find out that she hadn't received any cover submissions. She was absolutely delighted to be able to fill the May cover slot, especially since Mr. Wilson and I would be celebrating our wedding anniversary this month. Oh, and before I forget, she said you should give her a call or shoot her an email because she'd love nothing more than pulling a few strings to get you on the cover too!

So here we are smack dab on the cover in Pete Serio's 1966 GTO Convertible on our wedding day. It's incredible to me that 37 years have already flown by. And regardless of the fact that just a few months after we first met, that I took it upon myself to dismantle and paint the scratched up center console in his Challenger, I still think Mr. Wilson appreciated the fine detail in my craftsmanship despite my new color choice for the console. Wrong color you ask? Of course it was, but obviously Mr. Wilson decided that I was a keeper anyway! I know he knows I'm not perfect but that's just one of the reasons that I love this man, he's always treats me as if I am.

*Karen*

# INTERIORFEATURES

## 04 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Returning to a new normal...hopefully.

## 06 APRIL MEETING MINUTES

The season is finally starting to take shape as we gathered for our first in-person club meeting since the onset of the pandemic in 2020.

## 11 MAY CALENDAR

Don't forget mom...check out this year's 101 Gift Ideas for some Mother's Day Inspiration!

## 12 SPRING CRUISE

Originally started in 2005 with three flatbeds of parts and pieces of several B-17s, we are headed to the Champaign Aviation Museum to see just how they've become a center of excellence for B-17 restoration.

## 14 REUNITED

It's a good-read, so sit back, relax, and grab a cup-o-joe as the Brunney family chronicles a GTO journey spanning over five decades and three family generations.

## 22 GTOAA NATIONAL MEET INFO

With just over a month until convention, now is the time to carefully review national show information for upcoming deadlines as well as Concours, Popular Vote and Original Owner Display details.

## 27 GTOACO GEAR

Club tees and sweatshirts are the bumper sticker for your torso that you would never otherwise dare put on that NOS bumper of yours. Order yours today!

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Brad Blackburn

**A**s the old saying goes, what a difference a year makes! Last year at this time, we were having to cancel our monthly club meetings and hold officer only virtual meetings, early spring and summer car shows were dropping like flies, and the only thing certain was uncertainty!

This year things are looking up, vaccines are going into arms at a rapid pace and while the pandemic is still with us, talk is much more positive as we return to a new normal...someday we might actually know what "new normal" means?

For all of us car folks, it looks like this year's season should bring renewed hope. Der Dutchman is already advertising their weekly cruise -in season, Good Guys, Arthritis, GTOAA Nationals, as well as the Pontiac Nationals all are in full swing for 2021. **OldRide** has 78 events already listed for this season in Ohio, so it should be a great summer and fall to get out and enjoy our hobby!

GTOACO is also pushing to get back to normal. As you are reading this letter, we will have just completed our first in person club meeting in months. We had a great club turn out and we want to extend A HUGE THANK YOU to Lonnie and Lynne McLaughlin for graciously hosting. Schmidt's catering delivered some of their awesome German favorites along with their famous cream puffs. Lynne, however showed them up with a fantastic spread of hors d'oeuvres, salad, fresh fruit and veggies, a meat and cheese tray, and candied bacon that was to die for. Thanks again Lynne!

We are going to do a spring cruise on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to the Champaign Aviation Museum (see details on page 13). Our Battle of the Brands show is a go for Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and is in full planning mode. We are also looking at several other possible events for this summer. For our next club meeting we will be back to our old standby, the Hickory House in Gahanna on Wednesday evening, May 12<sup>th</sup>, I hope to see you all there.

Here's to getting back to a more normal life enjoying all those activities we've missed this past year!

Thanks,

The GTOACO was founded in 1984 by a group of GTO Enthusiasts in the Central OH Region. The club name was slated to be the Goat Owners of Columbus but by popular vote at our first meeting we became known as The GTO Association of Central Ohio. Becoming a chapter of the GTO Association of America in 1985, we were incredibly young and determined, hosting our first national show in 1986.

We continue to host and participate in a variety of national, regional, and local events celebrating a kind of camaraderie not easily found. We are car historians, passionately preserving, protecting, and restoring the Pontiac GTO so that future generations will never lose sight of the era that defined the raw power of the American Muscle Car!

# TIGERBITES

Noteworthy New Bites

**We will be meeting in person this month at the Hickory House** in Gahanna. Please join us Wednesday evening, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Pre-Meeting dinner is available to order starting at 5:30 pm in the meeting room. Meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm. Please kindly notify club president, **Brad Blackburn** if you plan to attend.

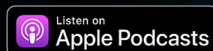
**You can cash in on a Free GTOAA Members Only T-Shirt with a paid membership** (limited time—new memberships only). Already a member? Help us update our membership roster by emailing your GTOAA Membership ID# and Expiration Date to the editor at **kwilson.1@att.net**.

**On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors**, we wish nothing but the best to all of our members who are celebrating May birthdays and anniversaries. We are truly honored to have all of you as part of our car club family.

**[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE CARS THAT MATTER PODCAST](#)**

## Cars That Matter

Join host Robert Ross and his guests as we take a drive along a very exclusive road. Whatever the car, it's guaranteed to be one that matters.



**CARS**  
**THAT MATTER**  
with ROBERT ROSS

# APRIL 17 • 2021 MEETING MINUTES

**The April Meeting** was called to order by President Brad Blackburn.

**In Attendance were Members:** Brent Barnham, Brad Blackburn, Christi Block, Joe Block, Joe Block Sr., Doug and Toni Boyle, Ron and Linda Cozzo, Dan and Elisha Gregory, Donna Landis, Kevin Landis, Jim Lowery, Lonnie and Lynne McLaughlin, Kevin and Charlene Russo, Keith and Connie Stevens, and Rob and Karen Wilson.

**Treasurer's Report** – Lonnie McLaughlin provided the treasurer's report including the final numbers from the swap meet that was held at the Franklin County Fairgrounds this past March. Motion to accept the report was made by Rob Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Russo.

**Swap Meet Final Report** – Rob Wilson reported the following: We had a total of 17 vendors this year filling 22 spaces. My initial feelings on the day of the swap was not what I would think of as a successful event, however the number of attendees indicated that we actually did very well. My thoughts were that since set up went so quickly that there were not as many vendors as anticipated. The truth was that with the group of GTOACO club members working to direct vendors to spaces and getting them in one of the three entrances, that it went extremely smooth. The swap meet would not have been such a success without the members volunteering to set up the buildings the night before the swap and working the day of the meet. I will continue to chair the event as long as I have the wonderful support of the member volunteers. Thank you again to all the members that helped make the event a success.

**2022 Swap Meet** – Brad Blackburn has already spoken with the Franklin County Fairgrounds and has reserved both the Edwards Building and the Ganyard Building for March 13th, 2022.

**Battle of the Brands** – Brad again reported that Brian D'Amico will be chairing the show and that it will be held on July 24th at the Sunbury Kroger parking lot.

**Spring Cruise** – Brad spoke with the Champaign Aviation Museum in Urbana Ohio and we are currently scheduled to have our Spring Cruise on Saturday, May 15th. Check the Paw Prints for more details.

**Open Discussion** – Lonnie shared a letter from Twila Hartley,

*“Dear GTO family members, I know I wasn't a member of your club for very long and I appreciate still getting your newsletter each month. I also know how much it costs to produce and send. So, I would hope you will accept this donation in continuing with my support of the club. Love Always, Twila Hartley – Hello to all”*

Twila sent a wonderful and thoughtful \$500 donation to support our club. Words cannot express how appreciative we are of her kindness and generosity!

Brad reminded everyone that if they are planning on going to the GTOAA Nationals, that they should hurry up and get their room reservations in before they are sold out.

**May Meeting Location** – The May meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hickory House in Gahanna. Pre-Meeting Dinner is available to order starting at 5:30 pm in the meeting room.

**Motion for Adjournment** – Kevin Russo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lonnie McLaughlin.



Meeting Minutes Submitted By:

**Rob Wilson**  
GTOACO Secretary  
614-519-1019  
ro.wilson@att.net



MAY 12 • 2021

# MEETING AGENDA

- Establish Quorum
- Call to Order
- Treasurer's Report – Lonnie McLaughlin
- Battle of the Brands
- Spring Cruise – Saturday, May 15th Champaign Aviation Museum
- All Pontiac Show
- Open Discussion
- Next Meeting – June 9th (at the Hickory House)
- Motion for Adjournment

**MEMBER DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 15 • 2021**

**\$20.00/Year** for Members in the USA  
(Color PDF Electronic Copy Paw Prints Newsletter)

**\$30.00/Year** for Members in the USA  
(Postal Mailed B/W Print Copy Paw Prints Newsletter)

**Make Check / Money Order Payable to:  
THE GTO ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO**

**Mail to Treasurer:**  
Lonnie McLaughlin  
5808 Tarton Circle North  
Dublin, OH 43017

**If you have recently changed your email or postal address,** updating your information is easy. Simply message us on **Facebook** or communicate your updates to the club president, Brad Blackburn, via telephone at 937-478-0476 or email at **[bradblackburn@dsa-rep.com](mailto:bradblackburn@dsa-rep.com)**.







# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues:**  
 **\$20.00/Year for Members in the USA**  
 (Color PDF Electronic Copy Paw Prints Newsletter)  
 **\$30.00/Year for Members in the USA**  
 (Postal Mailed B/W Print Copy Paw Prints Newsletter)

**Make Check / Money Order Payable to:**  
**THE GTO ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO**

**Mail To Treasurer:**  
 Lonnie McLaughlin  
 5808 Tarton Circle North  
 Dublin, OH 43017

**Please provide your GTO Association of America Membership ID# and Expiration Date**

**Membership ID#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage all GTOACO Members to apply for membership to the National GTO Association of America. The GTOAA provides many benefits including insurance coverage for club events which is extended to all national chapter clubs (including ours). Membership has its advantages with over three decades of technical knowledge, The Legend monthly magazine, vendor discounts, and access to the National Convention. If you're not currently a member, please consider joining the GTOAA today. For just \$3.00 a month, you can join fellow Pontiac enthusiasts in helping preserve and promote the Pontiac GTO. [Click here to join or renew.](#)

**Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**List the Year, Color, and Style of the GTO(s) or Pontiac(s) that you currently own.**

<b>Year</b>	_____	<b>Color</b>	_____	<b>Style</b>	_____
<b>Year</b>	_____	<b>Color</b>	_____	<b>Style</b>	_____
<b>Year</b>	_____	<b>Color</b>	_____	<b>Style</b>	_____

**What Club Activities are you interested in?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks for Joining Us!** Every Tiger has a Tale, so sit back a few minutes and let's get better acquainted. Please share a short story about yourself, your family, your occupation, or any hobbies you enjoy. Tell us how you became interested in the Pontiac GTO. Include any photographs of your GTO that you would like to share with fellow members. If your story is selected to publish in an upcoming edition of the GTOACO Paw Prints Newsletter, we'll send you a free club t-shirt!



# PONTIAC

we get it.

Photo Credit Rob Wilson | [rob.wilson@att.net](mailto:rob.wilson@att.net)  
2019 GTOAA National Convention

# MAY • CALENDAR

# 9



## Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9  
12:00 am-12:00 pm

It's time to honor our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers for their contribution to family and community. Need some inspiration for great Mother's Day gifts, check out this years [List of 101 Ideas](#) from Reader's Digest. Happy Mother's Day!

Photo Source | [Hotrod Golden Anniversary of the GTO](#)



## Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 12  
Meeting 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

The May Meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Hickory House Restaurant at 550 Officenter Place in Gahanna. Please kindly notify club president, [Brad Blackburn](#) if you plan to attend. Pre-Meeting Dinner is available to order starting at 5:30 pm in the meeting room.

# 12

# 15



## Spring Cruise

Saturday, May 15  
10:30 am-4:00 pm

Join us as we experience history at the [Champaign Aviation Museum](#). Grab your keys and plan to meet with fellow GTOACO members at the [Plain City Costco](#). We'll be departing as a group at 10:30 am. See page 13 for more details.



## Memorial Day

Monday, May 31  
12:00 am-12:00 pm

The price of freedom is steep, and sometimes, it comes at the expense of a human life. Pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom for all. To those who courageously gave their lives and to those who bravely fight today, THANK YOU!

# 31



Photo Source: Pinterest



# springcruise

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

### AVIATION MUSEUM

# SATURDAY MAY 15

## 10:30 AM

Plan to arrive at the **Plain City Costco** parking lot Saturday morning by 10:30 am. We will be geared up and ready to depart for the **Champaign Aviation Museum** located at 1652 N Main Street in Urbana, OH. Estimated travel time from Costco to the aviation museum will be approximately 45 minutes.

## 11:30 AM

Arrive for lunch at the Airport Café and watch the planes flying out at **Grimes Field** located at 1636 N Main Street in Urbana. From sandwiches to dinner, it's great homecooked food with generous portions at reasonable prices. And no visit is complete without a slice of homemade pie, it is delicious!

## 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Hit the museum for a hands on tour of aviation history that includes seeing a restoration in progress. The museum also welcomes donations of historic items which can be veterans' personal effects, pilot logbooks, historic equipment, airplane parts, or even entire airplanes. If you are thinking about donating personal artifacts, today is a great day to bring them along with you. Peruse the museum at your leisure, departure times will vary by individual, we will NOT be departing as a group. Enjoy your day!



**Please RSVP to Brad Blackburn by May 7th**

We would like to provide a courtesy count to the Airport Café for lunch.

# reunited

verb {T} re·unite|\,rē-yù-'nīt  
reunited; reuniting; reunites

with Phil Brunney

## Definition of *reunite*

*transitive verb*: to bring together again

**[ T ] He was reunited with his GTO after 55 years.**

Sometimes the most unexpected moments in life are the best. Over the years I've found that the future never exactly unfolds quite the way we plan it, but that sometimes there are unexpected turns that leave us smiling and appreciative at the fact that a blessing was bestowed upon us. So instead of looking ahead or worrying about the future I'd like to take you back to a golden day in September of 1964 where my story begins.

I was an incredibly young 18 years old and had just recently graduated from St. Mary High School, I lived in a neighborhood in what today is known as the very trendy upscale community of German Village but was merely referred to as the south end of Columbus back in '64. I was working full time much like my brothers, and like most other kids my age, I didn't have a lick of credit but needed some wheels. My mom had agreed to co-sign on a new Pontiac Tempest Lemans that I had been talking about with a salesman over at Avery Pontiac. The day mom and I went to the dealership we went through the rear of the building (which you could do in those days) and as we walked towards the front to meet the salesman that I had been talking with, I noticed this 1964 GTO setting towards the rear of the building. It was slightly dirty with no tags, but still looked brand new. Once we found the salesman, instead of asking him about the Lemans, my first question was about that GTO instead. The salesman told me they had just taken it in on trade for a new Bonneville. Ap-

parently, the previous owner had ordered the GTO new, but didn't end up liking the ride, the stiff clutch, or all that shifting, and that in fact it was for sale. I looked at my mother and asked, do you care if I look at it? She said she didn't care and of course I was ecstatic at her reply, for I knew what the car was and what it meant. It looked and felt brand new and only had a couple thousand miles on it. Mom and I took it for a test drive, and I managed to stall it at least half dozen times. The clutch was so stiff and as for the power under the hood, we'll let's just say I was not used to something like that either! Needless to say, The Tempest remained on the lot and I purchased the GTO and for the next glorious year I was in car heaven! I mention a year, because in October of 1965 I left home for basic training in the U.S. Army, having to sell my GTO in the process.

Fast-forward to the summer of 2020 in the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic. With stay-at-home orders and lock downs everywhere my son Eric and his wife Lisa announce that they want to have a July 4th Party. Honestly, I thought they were both crazy. Well, the July 4<sup>th</sup> party didn't happen, but they did reschedule for July 25<sup>th</sup>. I still thought they were crazy. They renamed their event The Freedom Party and moved ahead with their planning, paring down their guest list of over 300 to about 150. My wife Anne and I apparently didn't have the option of not going, because my son told me we

(Continued on page 16)



(Continued from page 14)

just have to be there and that's all there was to it. I can't say as we felt totally good about it due to Covid-19, but we went anyway thinking we would stay for about an hour and then head for home. With that many people there we thought they wouldn't even know that we had left. Well unbeknownst to me, that Freedom Party turned out to be one of the most unexpected moments in my life, a moment that was kept totally secret from Anne and I prior to that day. Oh, and just in case you're wondering...no, we most certainly did not end up leaving early.

As we arrived there was a large white party tent decorated with various US and military flags, along with several smaller tents flanking the backyard. The seating was spaced out, masks were provided for everyone and there was plenty of hand sanitizer along with food, drinks, and a live band. I counted no less than 11 veterans including myself that day, both young and old alike. My son Eric welcomed everyone to the party by delivering a heartwarming speech that he, his wife Lisa, and their children Elle, Hayden, Isla, and Hadley had put together for the party. He went on to invite active military, veterans, and any others who had served our country in any way, to make their way forward to the front of the tent stating,

*"I recognize the sacrifices you all made for your family, your friends and this country. I will never disrespect this flag and what it means to all of you. I will always be grateful for what you all have done to keep us free. Thank you for being here."*

It was quite an emotional opening moment not only for me but likely for everyone in that tent. My son went on to share our family story, specifically my time in the military (1965-1968). And it was at that moment that I realized this



Freedom Party was for me, a gift, a blessing, directly from the hearts of my son and his family.

I, much like some of you, received my draft notice in the mail but decided to enlist in the U.S. Army before I was due to report. Like most GI's I spent time at Fort Knox and Fort Sam, as well as a few others but eventually found myself thousands of miles from home in Pleiku Vietnam where I spent the longest 365 days that I had known as a young soldier. When it was all said and done, I had been away from Anne and my first-born son, Phil Jr. for over a year and a half. They had both went to live at Anne's parents in Columbus, which was a huge financial help and having their support meant the world to both of us. I've always felt that Vietnam changed the whole course of my life, but like many others I've never

**Top Left Page:**  
**My son Eric welcoming everyone and inviting active military and veterans to the stage.**

**Bottom Right Page:**  
**My son Eric reading his speech from the tent stage, my grandson Hayden heading towards me with the GTO model that he built, and my wife Anne's view of my moment with Hayden.**



chosen to talk about it all that much. But here I am on a balmy July evening surrounded by friends and family as my son recounts my journey from all those years ago.

He reminds everyone of when I was in school taking data-processing courses and then how I worked at The Ohio State University on some newfangled things called computers! I can remember making \$240.00 a month there and I suppose that helped my mom to not once regret her decision to co-sign for that GTO of mine. But oh boy did things change once I enlisted. Military pay was \$87.79 a month, and of course I'd find out later that I wouldn't see much more than that for combat pay once I had landed in Vietnam.

My granddaughter recently asked me what it was like to leave for the Army and then to come home. I told her that I had to give up my car and my job to join the Army. And as I'm thinking about that I remember as a teenager feeling as if I was saying my goodbyes to everyone that I loved for the final time. I was actually the last of my brothers to leave home, so for the first time my mom would be alone and the thought of that was really hard on me.

Coming home was an adjustment to say the least. War is a horrible thing, and you see things that you would never begin to imagine. I don't think a good deal of Americans (especially our younger generations) realize how good we have it here and what it took both then and now to protect those freedoms that we all take for granted today. Would I have changed what

happened on my journey? No. I'm happy for what happened, it made me a better person and a better American. It made me deeply appreciate what we have right here in our own country.

So enough of my talking for now. Let's get back to the Freedom Party and listen in as my son continues his speech setting the stage for what's about to happen...

*When I was younger, I always liked old cars and even looked at buying a GTO at one time. One day my dad told me he had owned a 1964 GTO. He told me how it ran, how cool it was to have a 4 speed and how awesome it had sounded. He told me it was a white coupe with a red top. So, of course I'm thinking dad, why don't you have that car anymore? He told me that when he went into the Army that he wouldn't be able to afford it on military pay. I've always remembered that conversation though it never made any sense to me. In my little 10-year-old brain I was like, shouldn't they have paid for that car for you since you were in a war? Thoughts like that seem like common sense to a 10-year-old, right? Well that always bothered me and it still does today. So, my son Hayden and I, put together a project that we want to give to my dad to commemorate that vehicle. Hayden, come on up here and let's give papa what you built to honor his 1964 GTO!*

So, what actually happened to my dad's GTO? Well, it was my uncle Tim (my father's older brother) who had bought





dad's car when he went into the Army. He's owned it ever since, and for years I've tried to buy that car back. One day my uncle called and said, would you like to come see the car I'm thinking about possibly selling it. So, a few years back I went over with a few buddies to take a look. Stacked up in boxes and covered in an inch of dirt with parts and pieces everywhere,

**I remember my buddy Steve saying "dude, this thing is never going to be on the road again".**

see these; you can't find them without being broken, take them home and put them under your bed, they are priceless. And it was then I knew I had the right guy for the

job, Kevin Landis from Ohio Muscle Car. Right around September of 2019, we pushed the GTO out of storage, and she was off to London. For nearly the last year she has been dismantled down to every single nut and bolt. There have been parts shipped all over this great country and I have the bills to prove it! I still can't get that image of my buddy Steve out of my head saying, "dude, this thing is never going to be on the road again", but I'm here to tell you all that we did get that THING back on the road!

So, it's time to give back. My parents gave me everything. Their support afforded me the courage that I needed to be who I am today. I am eternally grateful for both of you and the sacrifices you have made. You are loved by all who cross your path and are an example for all of us to follow. Dad, YOUR GTO is

about. He was floored at how original the car was and said you can't find these '64's with all their original parts. He pulled out the original chrome trim pieces from the heap of parts and said, you

rywhere, it looked so rough to me. I remember my buddy Steve saying "dude, this thing is never going to be on the road again". Well, I went home that day disheartened. After seeing that car in pieces, the very car that my dad had owned and the car that my wife, Lisa, probably thought I would never stop talking about and had no idea what my next move was going to be. I told her what Steve had said and she looked right at me and said, if you don't buy that car, you will likely never have the opportunity again. Financially we were pinched, but Lisa said, buy the car, we'll figure it out.

One of the coolest things when I bought the GTO was seeing the title with my grandmother's name listed on it as a previous title holder. And now that I had the car, it was a little overwhelming as to what to do with it, so I enlisted the help of my cousin Roger (my dad's 1<sup>st</sup> cousin) who stored the GTO in Lancaster for a few years for me. Then about a year ago I was calling all over the country talking to one GTO enthusiast after another. Eventually I got in touch with this guy in Indiana and he suggested that I call this "GTO nut" in London, Ohio and just like that we meet in Lancaster and he took a look at the car and said wow, this thing is great! I looked around because I wasn't sure if we were looking at the same thing! He was decoding the VIN number telling me things that I had no idea

job, Kevin Landis from Ohio Muscle Car. Right around September of 2019, we pushed the GTO out of storage, and she was off to London. For nearly the last year she has been dismantled down to every single nut and bolt. There have been parts shipped all over this great country and I have the bills to prove it! I still can't get that image of my buddy Steve out of my head saying, "dude, this thing is never going to be on the road again", but I'm here to tell you all that we did get that THING back on the road!

So, it's time to give back. My parents gave me everything. Their support afforded me the courage that I needed to be who I am today. I am eternally grateful for both of you and the sacrifices you have made. You are loved by all who cross your path and are an example for all of us to follow. Dad, YOUR GTO is

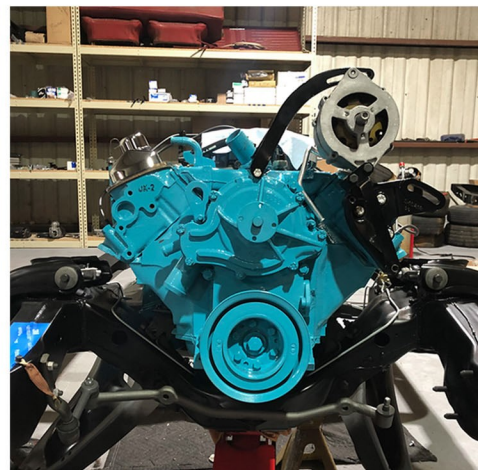
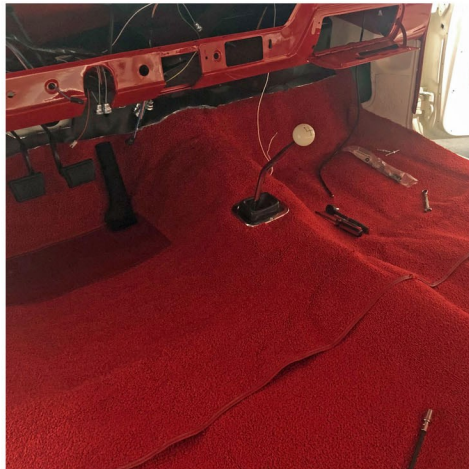
**Top Left Page:**

**Row 1, the GTO stored in my brother Tim's barn.**

**Row 2: second storage stop at my cousin Roger's garage where the car stayed in hiding for a few more years.**

**Row 3, the day my son and his family picked up the GTO from storage to start the restoration.**







*running, and she's beautiful, the car now belongs to you just as it did back in 1964!*

So now you understand just as I did, that this Freedom Party was actually planned for me. It was an unexpected moment of total and complete surprise that has become one of the many blessings in my life. Eric's determination to get the GTO back on the road has been in the works for years, and there was never one mention of it to me from anyone, not from my son, my daughter-in-law, the grandchildren, my cousin, and not even the editor of this newsletter. Because you see, Karen is my niece and Rob Wilson (your club secretary) is her husband. Karen is my brother Tim's daughter who along with her sister grew up in that GTO. Camping and traveling from state to state (yes, with my mom in tow too) while no doubt arguing over who got to lay in the back window! Oh, and REUNITD; that wasn't my doing either but I'd say it's the perfect vanity plate for the remarkable journey that our entire family has traveled with this GTO.

I've wrestled ever since the day of the Freedom Party trying to find the words to express the profound gratitude that I have for the gift of the GTO, but also for what my son's family have given up (trips, items, meals out, etc.) due to what was spent for and on this car rather than on themselves. Their generosity is overwhelming to me. You know as parents, we

do what we think is best for our families. It doesn't always work out perfect, sometimes not even good. We work hard to have what we think are perfect children, while at the same time we ourselves are very imperfect. We try to give and to be good examples although many times we fall woefully short. And yet, being gifts from God, our children see through us and accept us for what we are, simply mom and dad. Many times, our children add additional joy and happiness to us by the spouses they pick and the children they add to our families. We are blessed by all four of our children, multiple grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

Eric, Lisa, Elle, Hayden, Isla, and Hadley, thank you for the privilege of calling you my son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. And thank you for taking me back in a "time machine" to when I was 18 years old, I LOVE YOU ALL!

And for all of you who are still reading, well I believe that stories have the power to inspire and encourage, so thank you for taking the time and bearing with me as I shared my story (yes, I know it was a long one). And just remember, miracles do happen in the least likely places!

-Phil Brunney



#### **Restoration Credits:**

#### **Andrew's Body Shop**

Andrew Duevalle  
574-382-4226

#### **Ohio Muscle Car**

Kevin Landis  
740-361-1116

# 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# JULY 5-9 2021



# NATIONALS

## CONVENTION CAR SHOW INFORMATION

**W**ith just over a month until convention, now's the time to carefully review show information for upcoming deadlines as well as Concours, Popular Vote and Original Owner Display details.

### General Information

- Registration for GTOAA members is \$70, and \$80 for non-members.
- Concours entry deadline is June 15.
- Popular Vote deadline is June 15.
- Popular Vote entries received after June 15 must enter Street Legends display-only class. No exceptions.
- The same car cannot be entered in both Concours and Popular Vote.

### Concours Information

Concours entries must tech-in by 4:00 PM, Tuesday, July 6. Concours judging starts 7:00 AM, Wednesday, July 7. Cars must be in place by that time. Indoor cars must have less than 1/4 tank of gas plus an approved fire extinguisher. Only 1964-2006 GTOs, GT-37s, and 1964-1972 A-bodies (Tempest & LeMans) can enter Concours classes. 1974 Venturas that promote a GTO image may compete in the Concours Competition Modified Class (race cars) only.

Cars in all Concours classes (except Competition Modified) must provide documentation from Pontiac Historical Services indicating that the car is an authentic GTO / Judge / GT-37 / Tempest / LeMans.

### Concours Class Descriptions

**Restored:** Judging in this class will be based on authenticity and quality of workmanship. Replacing original materials, assemblies, or additions of accessories is acceptable only if they were available from the manufacturer during that particular model year. Point determination for the use of reproduction parts will be based on their likeness to factory assembly line parts.

**Factory Original (Unrestored):** This class will be judged on the car's originality and condition. Originality will be determined from the body identification and production codes. Condition will be based on cleanliness and amount of wear. Only original or GM maintenance parts are eligible to receive full point credit. Use of aftermarket or reproduction parts will be grounds for full point deduction. Cars in this class should have a majority of original paint, upholstery, and chrome plating.

**Modified & Competition Modified:** To enter Concours Modified or Competition Modified, a car must have at least three qualifying modifications

such as: engine swap, transmission swap, non original induction, disc brakes where not original, aftermarket AC, fuel injection, blower, nitrous, suspension mods, custom dash or upholstery, custom paint (aftermarket color, flames, graphics, etc.) tube frame, roll bar, body modifications, etc. Cars in this program will be judged on build quality, fit, finish, and detail.

Concours cars must complete tech check-in by 4:00 PM Tuesday, July 6. This is a day earlier than usual, don't forget! Concours judging takes place on Wednesday, July 7.

*All Concours questions should be directed to Bill Markowski at 716-652-1911 before 9:00 PM EST or via email at [wmarkowski@goaa.org](mailto:wmarkowski@goaa.org).*

### Popular Vote Information

Popular Vote is open to all Pontiacs. Classes are determined by model, year, and body style based on actual registrations received.

Popular Vote registrations MUST be received by June 15, 2021. Popular Vote registrations received after June 15 will be entered as Street Legends, a display only class. No exceptions.

All cars must complete tech-check-in. Popular Vote tech-in takes place Monday, July 5, Tuesday, July 6, and Wednesday, July 7. There is no tech-in on Thursday, July 8. No exceptions. This is a day earlier than usual, don't forget!

If you do not complete tech check-in by 5:00 PM Wednesday July 7, your car goes into Street Legends display only.

Popular Voting takes place Thursday, July 8, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

See the **[Popular Vote Classification Chart](#)** to determine if you should enter as Stock or Modified. Make sure you enter the proper category for your vehicle. If your car has to be placed in a different class upon arrival because the information you provided is incorrect, there may not be sufficient parking space in the proper class. This also applies if you bring a different car from the one originally regis-

tered. Every effort will be made to accommodate such situations, but if you show up with flames on a car entered as Stock, there may not be a space for you in the Modified category.

Likewise, if you register a '64 GTO convertible but arrive with a '68 Firebird hardtop, there may not be space for you in the class where you need to park.

You must supply your VIN when registering a GTO or Judge. PHS will verify that the car is a

real GTO or a real Judge. Unverified GTOs will be classed as Modified A-body and unverified Judges will be classed as Modified GTO.

It is not necessary to supply a VIN when entering a Pontiac that is not a GTO or Judge in Popular Vote.

Street Legends is a display-only, non voting class for all Pontiacs. It is open to stock, modified, original, project, unfinished, or even beater cars. No judging, no voting, just bring it.

*All Popular Vote Questions should be directed to Tom Szymczyk at 856-524-2588 or via email at [goatguytom@aol.com](mailto:goatguytom@aol.com) and/or Bob Alexander who can be reached at 970-214-4234 or via email at [bob06gto@LPbroadband.net](mailto:bob06gto@LPbroadband.net).*

### Original Owner Display

If you are a previous Original Owner Award recipient or will be receiving the award at this year's convention, you have the option of parking in a display only class of Original Owner GTOs, LeMans, and Tempests. Or you can enter the regular Popular Vote or Concours competition and still receive your Original Owner Award.

*For an Original Owner application, contact Tom Oxler before May 15, 2021 at 636-928-5548 or via email at [toxler@prodigy.net](mailto:toxler@prodigy.net)*

**NO TECH-IN ON THURSDAY, JULY 8**

**CONCOURS CARS MUST  
COMPLETE TECH CHECK-IN BY  
4:00 PM TUESDAY, JULY 6.  
POPULAR VOTE CARS MUST  
COMPLETE TECH CHECK-IN BY  
5:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JULY 7.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**





**July 24th, 2021**  
**175 OH-3, Sunbury, Ohio**  
**\$10 Registration from 10:00am to 1:00pm - Awards at 3:00pm**

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**Awards for "TOP 25"**

**...AND BEST CHEVY, BEST FORD, BEST MOPAR, BEST PONTIAC, BEST IMPORT & BEST BOC (BUICK-OLDS-CADILLAC)**



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Brian D'Amico: 614-935-5107 – [burgboy73@gmail.com](mailto:burgboy73@gmail.com)  
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A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO:



**Rain or Shine All Cars Welcome**



# BUY • SELL TRADE



**SEND US YOUR ADS\* FOR JUNE BY MAY 14, 2021**  
**EMAIL THE EDITOR AT: [kwilson.1@att.net](mailto:kwilson.1@att.net)**



**Muncie 4 speed transmissions** rebuilt for \$275.00 labor, parts extra. The basic rebuild kit consists of front and rear bearings, all needle bearings, gaskets, snap rings, seals, synchro rings, front input retainer nut, synchro keys and springs. Also includes new counter shaft. My cost on the overhaul parts kit is \$126.00 plus shipping. Additional parts, if needed, are at additional cost.

Contact: Steve Schaeffer | Retired A.S.E. Certified Mechanic  
 Phone: 740-215-0126 Email: [superschaef421@att.net](mailto:superschaef421@att.net)

**323 Posi Rear End** - \$1200.00. Brand new gears and axles built by Sonic Motors. (Compare to Chevy 12 bolt at \$2600) Please note this is not a used rear end. Best cruising gear to keep your 389 cool. Will deliver to any GTOACO member.

Contact: Greg Nobis  
 Phone: 740-815-4748 Email: [jgregnobis@gmail.com](mailto:jgregnobis@gmail.com)

**DJ GTO Parts** is your one stop shop for used and NEW GTO parts located in Central Ohio. All GTOACO members receive a discount!

Contact: Dan Gregory Jr. | Owner  
 Phone: 614-563-0877 Email: [djgtoparts@gmail.com](mailto:djgtoparts@gmail.com)

**Ohio Muscle Car** was founded on the idea to treat each project with the highest level of detail and integrity. Whether it is a freshening up of an engine bay or a complete restoration, we pride ourselves on creating a product that each customer can be proud of.

Contact: Kevin Landis | Owner  
 Phone: 740-361-1116 Email: [ohiomusclecar@gmail.com](mailto:ohiomusclecar@gmail.com)

ADS\* MUST BE FOR CAR PARTS AND THE LIKE, ABSOLUTELY NO HOUSEHOLD OR PERSONAL ITEMS.



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Toll-Free: 877-308-9028

**Business Hours**

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We buy and sell used and NOS parts for the Pontiac GTO, Lemans, and Tempest, mainly 64-72. We also sell some complete cars and a few parts for Firebird, Bonneville, Catalina, and Grand Prix. Call first for an appointment or stop by the shop.

[djgtoparts@gmail.com](mailto:djgtoparts@gmail.com)

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GTOACO  
*Club*

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**GTOACO CLUB** Tees (\$10.00) and Sweatshirts (\$15.00) are available while supplies last and can be pre-ordered for convenient pick-up at monthly club meetings or can be purchased at scheduled shows and swap meets this season.

Contact Karen Wilson at [kwilson.1@att.net](mailto:kwilson.1@att.net) for additional details, sizing, and pick-up date availability.





It was a stroke of genius. Actually, two strokes of genius. When Pontiac placed its new “Wide Track” advertising campaign in the capable hands of artists Art Fitzpatrick and Van Kaufman in 1959, it was the start of something special. Or the continuation of something special, since the two had been working together since 1949—Fitzpatrick drew the cars, Kaufman the backgrounds and people.

They were magic. Together they created 285 memorable advertisements for Pontiac...[read the article at Hagerty.com](http://Hagerty.com)

# FITZPATRICK & KAUFMAN'S 10 BEST PONTIAC ADS

